

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SSO-00 L-03 SS-15 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:WGRAMSAY:IW

APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH

S/CPR:RGOOKIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, GV, US

SUBJECT: INCIDENT INVOLVING GUINEAN EMBASSY CHAUFFEUR

1. GUINEAN AMBASSADOR HABIB BAH CALLED AT DEPARTMENT (AF/W) TODAY AT HIS REQUEST AND ON SHORT NOTICE TO REGISTER VERBAL PROTEST OVER MANNER IN WHICH METROPOLITAN POLICE HAD TREATED HIS CHAUFFREUR (GUINEAN NATIONAL) THIS MORNING DURING ALTERCATION OVER ALLEGED TRAFFIC VIOLATION. AMBASSADOR'S VERSION OF INCIDENT IS THAT WHILE ATTENDING AMBASSADOR'S CAR, CHAUFFEUR WAS QUESTIONED BY POLICE AND COULD NOT OR DID NOT PRODUCE SATISFACTORY IDENTIFICATION ON DEMAND. ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER; BY THE TIME AMBASSADOR ARRIVED ON SCENE, IT APPEARS CHAUFFEUR WAS IN HANDCUFFS. AMBASSADOR CLAIMS HE PRODUCED HIS DIPLOMATIC ID CARD AND IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AND HIS CHAUFFEUR, IN ENGLISH. HE SAYS HE WAS TOLD IT WAS TOO LATE, VIOLATION HAD ALREADY OCCURRED. AFTER AMBASSADOR BAH'S CALL, OFFICE OF CHIEF OF PROTOCOL RECEIVED PRELIMINARY REPORT ON INCIDENT BY PHONE FROM METROPOLITAN POLICE. POLICE VERSION IS THAT OFFICER WAS WRITING TICKET ON AMBASSADOR'S VEHICLE FOR PARKING IN PROHIBITED ZONE WHEN CHAUFFEUR BECAME BELLIGERENT AND, FOLLOWING HEATED EXCHANGE, STRUCK

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POLICE OFFICER. APPEARS CHAUFFEUR IS ON DEPARTMENT'S WHITE

LIST AND HAS DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY. IF HE WAS DETAINED AT ALL, IT WAS NOT FOR VERY LONG. HE WAS PRESENT THIS AFTERNOON TO PICK UP AMBASSADOR FOLLOWING THIS CALL.

2. IN REGISTERING HIS COMPLAINT, BAH WAS AT ONCE FORCEFUL AND RESTRAINED. HE STRESSED THAT IN HIS VIEW CONDUCT OF POLICE WAS NOT IN KEEPING WITH OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS IMPROVE US-GUINEAN RELATIONS. ON OTHER HAND, HE CHARACTERIZED POLICE CONDUCT AS "EXTRAORDINARY" RATHER THAN MALICIOUS. (ON LEAVING DEPARTMENT, BAH ASSURED DEPTOFF THAT HE DEFINITELY DID NOT CONSIDER RACE A FACTOR IN INCIDENT (POLICE WERE WHITE.)

3. DEPTOFFS EXPRESSED REGRET OVER INCIDENT AND SUGGESTED AMBASSADOR PROVIDE DETAILS IN DIPLOMATIC NOTE SO THAT DEPARTMENT COULD ASK METROPOLITAN POLICE FOR FULL REPORT. BAH AGREED TO DO SO.

4. WE WILL PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS AS SOON AS WE RECEIVE THEM. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE040458
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WGRAMSAY:IW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760063-0070
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760233/aaaabcmp.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <02 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCIDENT INVOLVING GUINEAN EMBASSY CHAUFFEUR
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, GV, US, (BAH, HABIB)
To: CONAKRY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006